THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The targeted growth rate of GDP at market prices for the Tenth Five Year Plan is 8.1 per cent. As against this, according to the estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) the growth rate of GDP at market prices (at 1993-94 prices) was 4.1 per cent for 2002-03, 8.6 per cent in 2003-04 and 6.9 per cent in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) The steps being taken by the Government to achieve the targeted growth rate during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan are being spelt out in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, which is currently being finalised.

Connectivity to World Heritage Sites

3807. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tourism Ministry requested Planning Commission to provide funds to give connectivity to world heritage sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decisions has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) There has been no formal request for funds received in the Planning Commission from the Ministry of Tourism to provide connectivity to world heritage sites.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

People Earning Less than one Dollar a Day

3808. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been a sharp decline in the number of people earning less than one dollar a day; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) As per the World Development Indicators, the proportion of people earning less than one dollar a day in India declined from 42.3 percent in 1993-94 to 34.7 percent in 1999-2000.

(b) As per the official estimates, the proportion of people living below the poverty line declined from 36 percent in 1993-94 to 26.1 percent in 1999-2000.

Reduction in assistance to States

†3809. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission is going to effect massive cut in the financial assistance to be provided to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the development of State and progress of schemes/projects would be affected thereby;

(d) whether the Planning Commission have conducted any study in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) and (b) On a like-to-like basis, Central Assistance for the Annual Plan of States has increased from Rs. 53,388.92 crore in 2004-05 to Rs.60,281.61 crores in 2005-06.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (e) As recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission, with effect from 2005-06, the Central Government will not, as a general rule, be an intermediary in raising loans and on-lending them to the States for Plan financing. The State Government will be enabled to raise the plan loans directly based on authorization given by the Central Government.

Bringing down of Poverty Ratio

†3810. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several effective programmes are being

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.